The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report 2025

Inputs and information provided as of 30 April 2025

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Note: This unedited 'Extended Report' includes all indicator storyline contents as provided by the SDG indicator custodian agencies as of 30 April 2025. For instances where the custodian agency has not submitted a storyline for an indicator, please see the custodian agency focal point information for further information. The 'Extended Report' aims to provide the public with additional information regarding the SDG indicators and is compiled by the Statistics Division (UNSD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Storylines presented in this document may slightly differ from figures cited in the SDG Report 2025 text due to the timing of the submission and the subsequent updates received upon finalizing the Report.

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Target 10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

Indicator 10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population

Income amongst bottom 40 percent of population has increased more than average income in majority of countries

Globally, approximately 6 out of 10 countries have managed to ensure higher income or consumption growth amongst the bottom 40 percent of the population than the national average since 2015. This is based on a comparison of growth between the two most recent surveys in countries for which at least one survey is available since 2015.

There is no evidence in the data that COVID-19 disproportionally affected the bottom 40 percent. In fact, a larger share of countries (2 out of 3) for which there is data after 2019 have greater growth amongst the bottom 40 percent than the national average. It is unclear, however, whether this is due to COVID-19 being less detrimental for income growth amongst the poorest or due to the selection of countries for which more recent data is available.

More inclusive growth is not evenly spread across the world. Significant regional differences exist with countries in East and South-East Asia as well as North America and Europe managing to ensure most pro-poor growth on average. This is true irrespective of looking at countries for which there is data before or after COVID19. At the other end of the spectrum only 3 of the 7 Central and South Asian countries for which there is data have managed higher growth amongst the bottom 40 percent of the population than the national average. And only one of the three countries for which data was collected after 2019 managed to have higher growth amongst the bottom 40 percent.

Differences in achievement also exist across income levels. Less than half the countries classified as low- or lower-middle-income have managed to achieve higher growth amongst the bottom 40 percent of population compared to the national average. Amongst upper-middle- and high-income countries, 7 of 10 countries have achieved higher growth for the bottom 40 percent.

Figure 1: Share of countries who have made progress on SDG 10.1.1. since 2015 and post-COVID by region

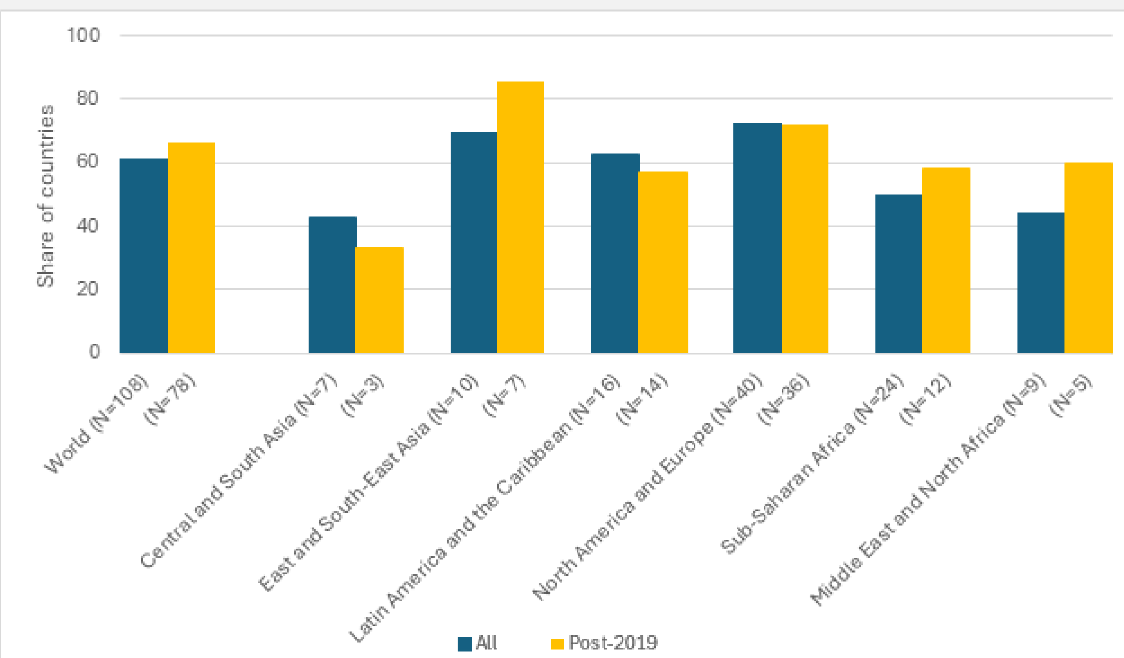
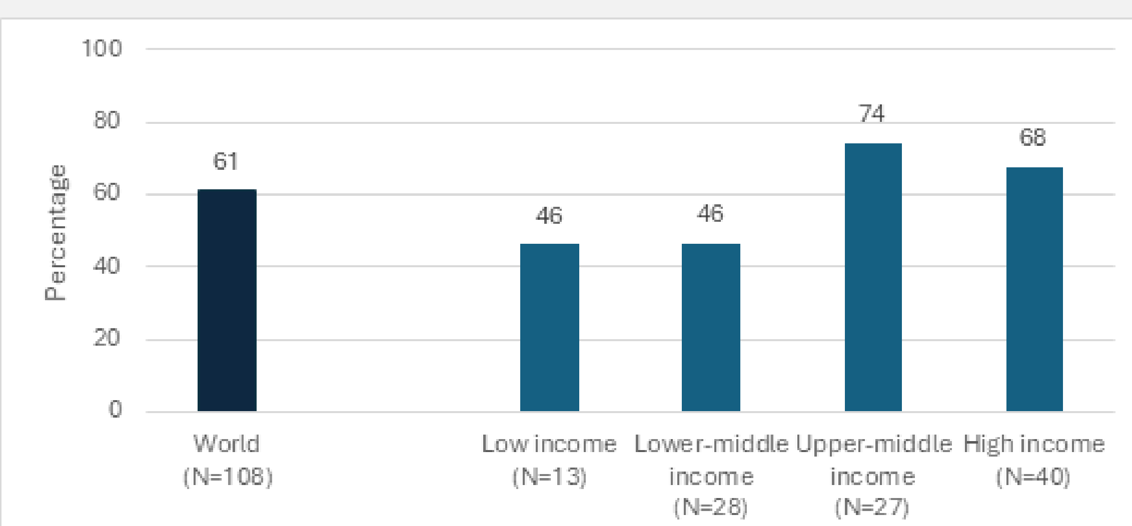


Figure 2: Share of countries who have made progress on SDG 10.1.1. by income classification



Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Development Data Group, World Bank

Custodian agency(ies): World Bank

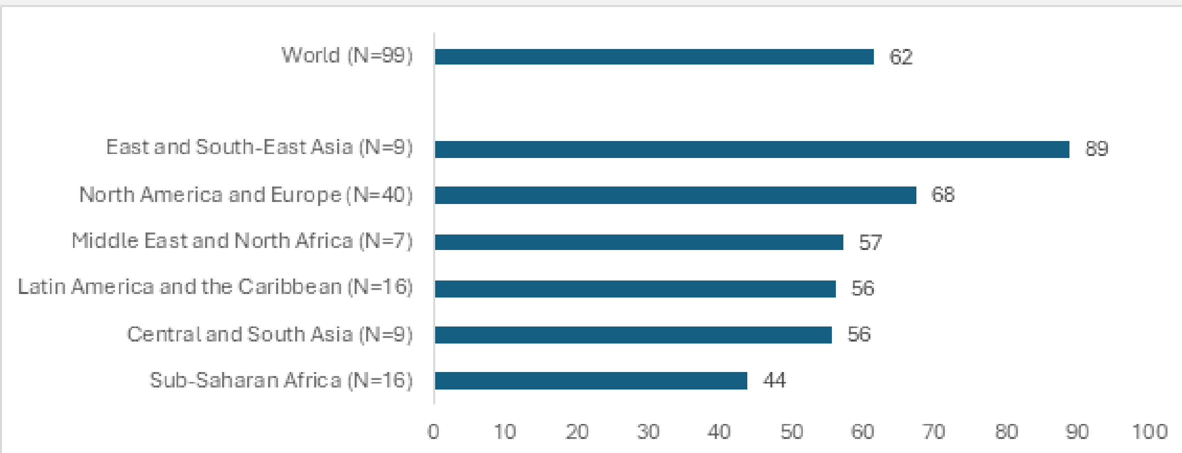
Target 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Indicator 10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

Two out of three countries are making progress on SDG 10.2.1

Two out of three of the 128 countries for which data is availeble have managed to decrease the proportion of their population living below 50 percent of the median income since 2000. When comparing to 2015, more than 6 out of 10 countries for which information is available have made progress (see figure 1).

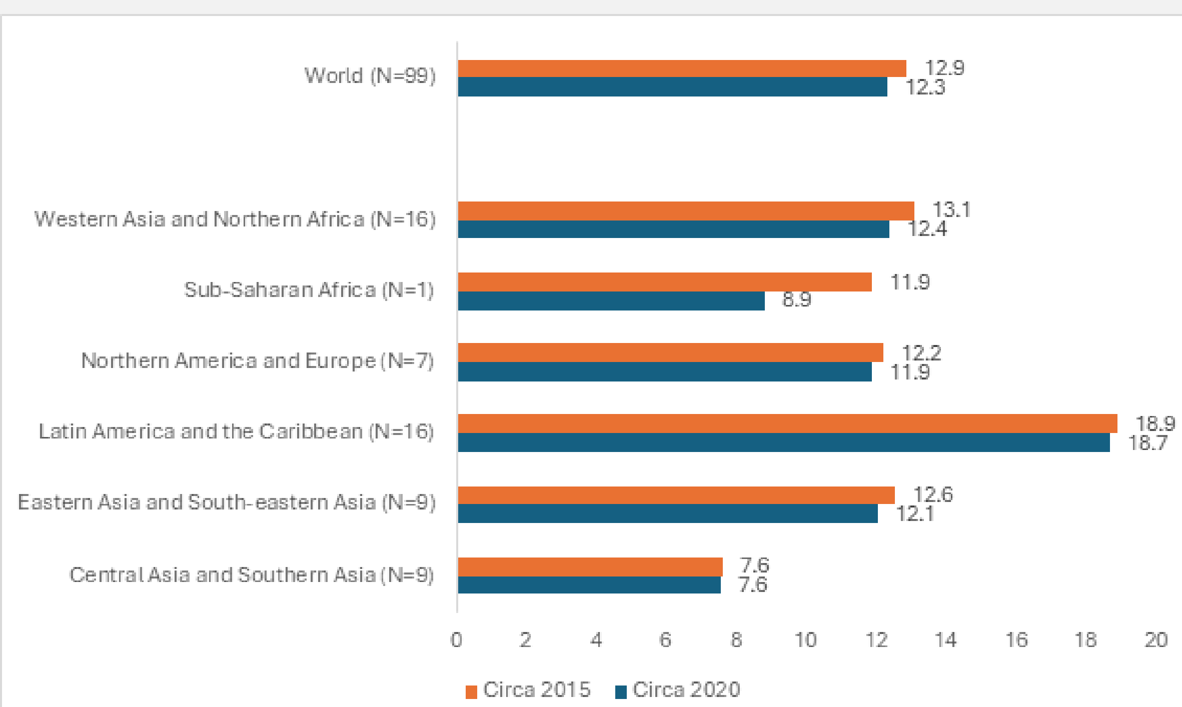
Figure 1: Share of countries that have made progress on SDG 10.2.1. since 2015.



Focusing on developments since 2015, substantial differences in progress across regions are evident. Whilst 8 of 9 countries in East and South-East Asia have made progress over the period, the same is true for less than half of the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

All regions, however, have experienced a decrease in the average share of the population that is living below 50 percent of median income (see figure 2). Globally, the average share of the population that lives on less than 50 percent of median income in their respective country has decreased from approximately 13 percent around 2015 to approximately 12 percent today. The largest improvements have occurred in countries in East and South-East Asia as well as North America and Europe.

Figure 2: Development in average share of population living on less than 50 percent of median income



Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean remain the most unequal with almost 1 in 5 people on average living below 50 percent of median income. The same is true, on average, for less than 8 percent of the people living in countries in Central and South Asia.

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Development Data Group, World Bank

Custodian agency(ies): World Bank

Target 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

Indicator 10.3.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

A Global Look at Discrimination New evidence from 119 countries reveals both who is being left behind - and a clear upward trend in global discrimination

New evidence from 119 countries reveals both who is being left behind - and a clear upward trend in global discrimination.

In countries with repeated survey rounds, average discrimination on any ground rose from 14.8% to 17.1%. Backsliding nations (averaging +4 percentage points) are outnumbering success stories (-2 points) by two-to-one.

Yet this is only part of the story. **Discrimination is neither rare nor random.** It is a widespread and patterned experience, rooted in social identity and status. This year's data from 119 countries provides a clearer picture than ever before, thanks to expanded disaggregation by income, age, and education.

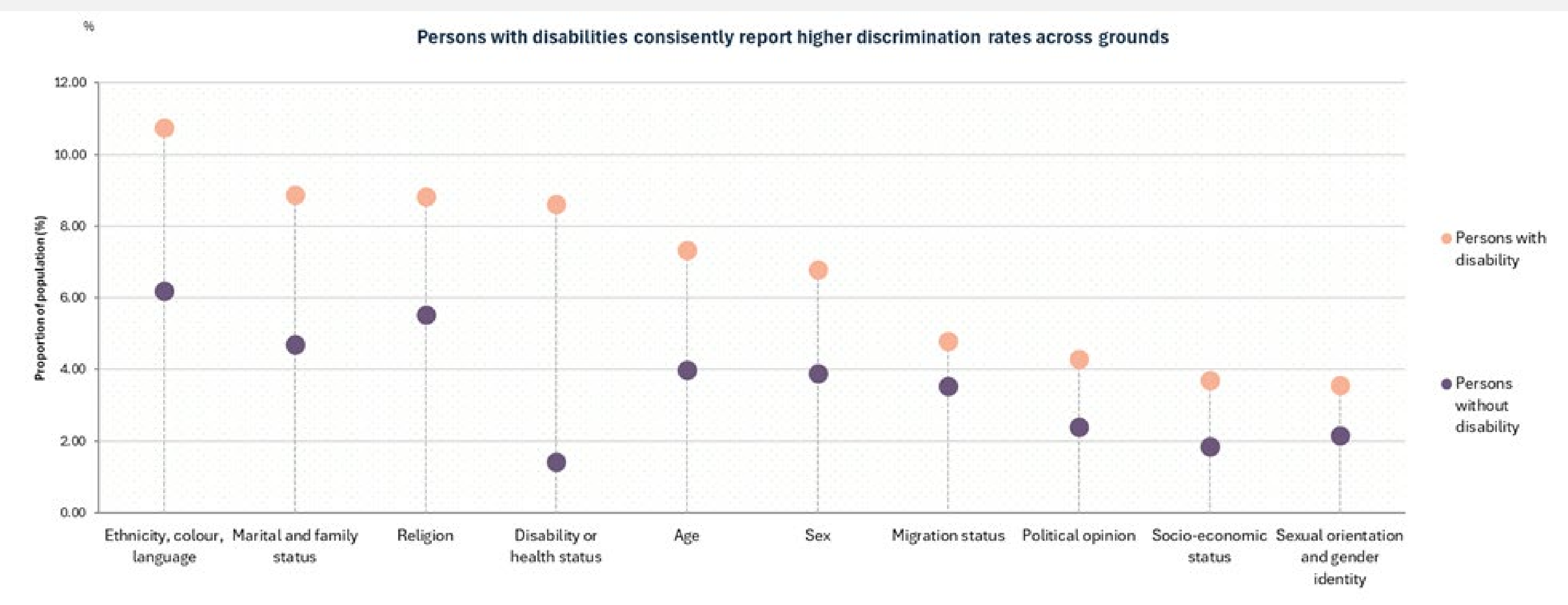
On average, one in five individuals globally report having been discriminated against on at least one ground prohibited by international law in the past 12 months, with most countries reporting prevalence rates between 13 and 26 per cent. Least Developed Countries report significantly higher rates on average (24.3%) compared to other country groupings.

Urban residents report higher rates of discrimination than their rural counterparts: for every rural resident who experienced discrimination, nearly two urban residents did.

Gender disparities remain pronounced. Women are more than twice as likely to experience gender-based discrimination, and they face higher rates on grounds such as marital or family status.

Persons with disabilities face persistently higher rates of discrimination. On average, almost 1 in three (28 per cent) of persons with disabilities report experiencing discrimination — compared to 17 per cent among persons without disabilities. Disparities are reported across all grounds, but are most pronounced in relation to disability and health status, and socio-economic status.

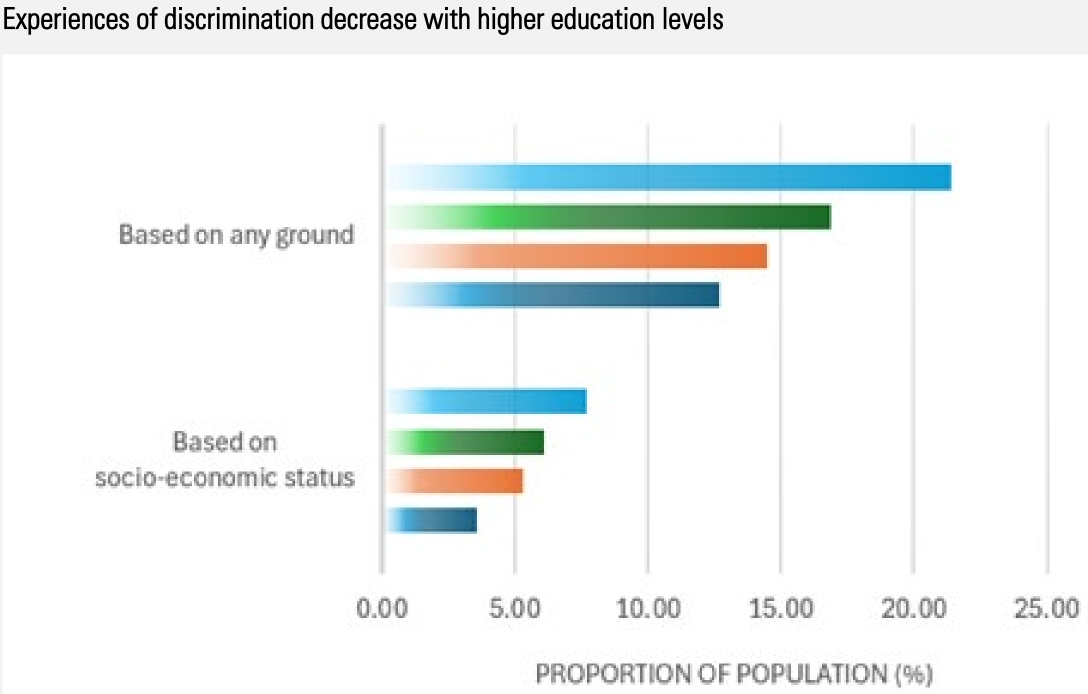
Persons with disabilities consistently report higher discrimination rates



Income and wealth correlate strongly with discrimination. In all countries where data on income or wealth quintiles are available, discrimination rates are highest among those in the poorest quintile (17.3%), and decrease consistently with each higher quintile, down to 10.3% in the richest quintile.

Discrimination decreases as education levels increase. There is a strong and consistent inverse relationship between education level and reported experiences of discrimination. Individuals with no formal education report an average discrimination rate of 21.4%, nearly double (nine percentage points higher) than those with higher education (12.7%). This pattern holds across nearly all grounds, especially in relation to age, religion, and socio-economic status.

Experiences of discrimination decrease with higher education levels



Age influences the grounds — not just the frequency — of discrimination. The reasons people report being discriminated against shift markedly with age. Migration status, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation or gender identity are more often cited among younger respondents (15-29). In contrast, among older adults (60+), discrimination is more commonly reported on grounds of age, and disability and health status.

Data collection is expanding — but gaps remain. Fewer than half of all countries provide data disaggregated by income, education, or migration status. Only one in five countries conduct repeated surveys, further limiting the ability to assess progress or trends over time.

Discrimination is measurable — and it must be addressed. Tackling it requires targeted policies informed by detailed data — and backed by real accountability. If not, the promise to leave no one behind will remain unmet.

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Custodian agency(ies): OHCHR

Target 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

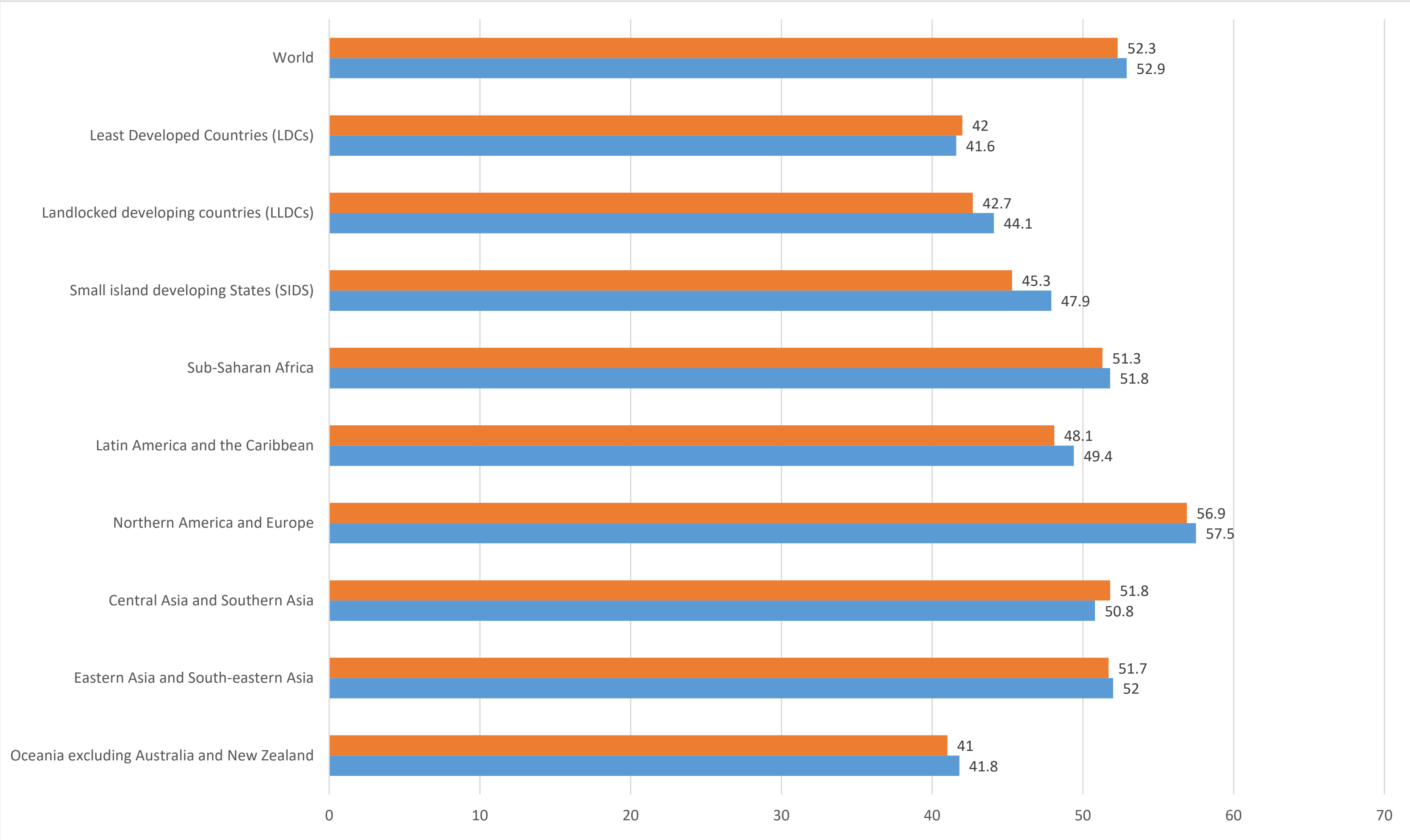
Indicator 10.4.1 Labour share of GDP

Workers' share of economic output has declined over the last 10 years, exacerbating income inequality

Labour income data is essential for understanding inequality. In 2024, 57 per cent of working-age persons were employed worldwide, meaning that labour income directly impacts the lives of 3.6 billion workers and their families. A declining labour income share in GDP indicates that labour productivity gains do not translate into higher labour compensation. Instead, a growing share of economic gains is accruing to capital, which is concentrated among the affluent population, thereby exacerbating inequality. The global share of labour income has declined from 52.9 per cent in 2015 to 52.3 per cent in 2024, contributing to upward pressure on inequality. This global decline represents an average of US$255 (PPP) per worker per year.

Most regions experienced a decline in the labour income share between 2015 and 2024. This period includes the COVID-19 pandemic, which had significant negative economic impacts globally. The decline was particularly pronounced in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and Latin America and the Caribbean, where the labour income share dropped by 2.6, 1.4 and 1.3 percentage points, respectively. However, in Central Asia and Southern Asia, the labour income share increased. In Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the labour income share also saw a minor rise over the same period, though it initially had a much lower share.

Labour income share, 2015 and 2024 (%)



Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): ILO

Custodian agency(ies): ILO

Indicator 10.4.2 Redistributive impact of fiscal policy

Custodian agency(ies): World Bank

Target 10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations

Indicator 10.5.1 Financial Soundness Indicators

Custodian agency(ies): IMF

Target 10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions

Indicator 10.6.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations

Custodian agency(ies): DESA/FFDO

Target 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Indicator 10.7.1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination

Custodian agency(ies): ILO, World Bank

Indicator 10.7.2 Proportion of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people

Custodian agency(ies): DESA Population Division, IOM

Indicator 10.7.3 Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination

Custodian agency(ies): IOM

Indicator 10.7.4 Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin

Custodian agency(ies): UNHCR

Target 10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements

Indicator 10.a.1 Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff

Custodian agency(ies): ITC, UNCTAD, WTO

Target 10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes

Indicator 10.b.1 Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)

Total ressource flows in developing countries have increased in 2023 compared to 2015 to reach USD 429 billion. The share of official development assistance increased from 55% in 2025 to 60% in 2023

In 2023, total receipts by developing countries from DAC donors, multilateral agencies and other providers were USD 429 billion in constant prices, of which USD 259 billion were in the form of Official Development Assistance (ODA), USD 48.6 billion in the form of Other Official Flows (OOF) and USD 5.5 billion in the form of Private Sector Instruments (PSI). Private flows, which tend to be more volatile than ODA, had fallen dramatically in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and have increased since to reach USD 116 billion in 2023.

Since 2015, total resource flows have increased by from USD 290 billion to USD 429 billion in volume (constant 2023 USD) in 2023. The proportion of Official Development Assistance increased from 55% in 2015 to 60% in 2023 although it experienced a lot of variations in the period due to the volatility of private flows.

In 2023, Asia was the region that received the largest volume of flows (USD 141 billion or 32% of the total) followed by the Africa (USD 91 billion or 21% of the total) and Latin America & the Caribbean. Least Developed Countries received USD 80 billion.

From the bilateral donor perspective, in 2023, the United States, Germany and Japan were the countries at the origin of larger flows towards developing countries amounting USD 175.71 billion, USD 73.7 billion and USD 45.9 billion respectively.

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Custodian agency(ies): OECD

Target 10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

Indicator 10.c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted

Overall remittance costs remained high in the second quarter of 2024, at more than twice the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of 3 percent by 2030

Remittance costs remained high in the second quarter of 2024 (2024Q2), at more than twice the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of 3 percent by 2030. According to the World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide (RPW) database, the global average cost of sending $200 was 6.7 percent in 2024Q2, up from 6.2 percent a year earlier. The global average cost for digital remittances, which account for 30 percent of total transactions collected in the RPW database, was 5.3 percent in 2024Q2, while the cost for nondigital remittances was 7.2 percent. This trend reflects that remittance costs tend to be lower when remittances are sent through digital channels or through money transmitters offering cash-to-cash services than through banks.

A few potential factors contributed to the rise, including increased foreign-exchange margins in some corridors, the mandatory switch of remittance disbursement currency in Nigeria, increased fees in exchange houses in Qatar and United Arab Emirates and in corridors from Italy, temporary suspension of several low-cost services due to the end of exclusive partnerships between providers, and data unavailability for some service providers.

The cost of sending money from the G20 (Group of Twenty) countries, which represent a significant source of remittances globally, increased slightly to 6.8 percent in 2024Q2 compared with 6.3 percent a year earlier. It is slightly higher than the global average cost. There is substantial variance in the cost of remitting from G20 countries (figure 1). South Africa (13.1 percent) is the costliest source, followed by Japan (7.9 percent). The cost is lowest in the Republic of Korea (at 5.3 percent), followed by Australia (at 4.7 percent).

Among developing-country regions, the average cost continued to be the lowest in South Asia at 5.5 percent, but the region also experienced the largest increase of 122 basis points from a year earlier. The average cost was the highest in Sub-Saharan Africa at 8.4 percent (figure 2). All other developing-country regions also posted an increase in total average costs, with exception of Latin America and the Caribbean. Remittance costs across many African corridors remain significantly high; Tanzania is the costliest African source country from which to send remittances to another country in the region, followed by South Africa.

Banks continue to be the costliest channel for sending remittances, with an average cost of 13.4 percent during 2024Q2, up from 12.1 percent from a year earlier. The average cost for post offices was 7.5 percent, money transfer operators 5.6 percent, and mobile operators 3.9 percent. While mobile operations remain the cheapest type of service provider, they account for less than 1 percent of total transaction volume.

Figure 1. Average cost of remitting from G20 countries in 2024Q2

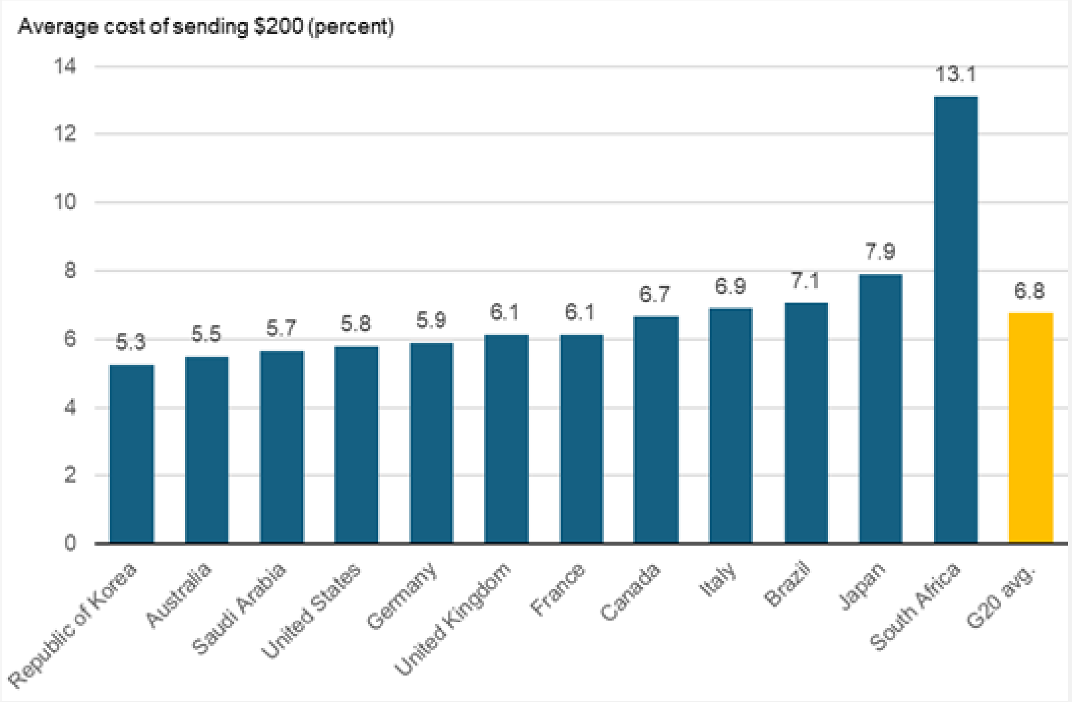
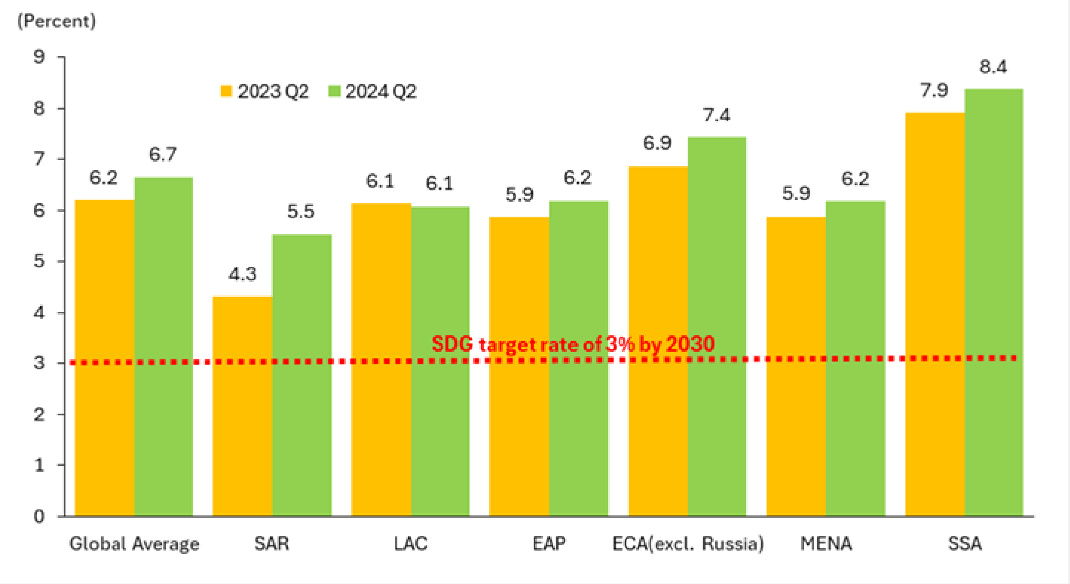


Figure 2. How Much Does It Cost to Send $200? Regional Remittance Costs, 2023-24



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099714008132436612/pdf/IDU1a9cf73b51fcad1425a1a0dd1cc8f2f3331ce.pdf

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): World Bank

Custodian agency(ies): World Bank